

Lowell Public Schools

April 1, 2021 Reopening Plan Update

February 25, 2021





Agenda

- Governor and Commissioner Guidance
- Overview of Potential Hybrid Plans
- Current Data
- Timeline
- Technology
- Items for Consideration
- Next Steps

Governor's Guidance as of 2/23/21

Schools should reopen following the latest CDC guidance with priority on reopening elementary schools for in-person instruction:

- Recommends a layered mitigation approach in schools to minimize the risks of COVID- 19, which includes masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning, and contact tracing.
- The CDC continues to recommend 6 feet of distancing in its guidance. (DESE will continue to recommend 6 feet of distance where feasible and a minimum of 3 feet when all other mitigation measures are in place).
- Emphasizes that in-person instruction – whether in a hybrid or full in-person model – is particularly encouraged for elementary schools, regardless of community transmission.
- Importance of a comprehensive testing program for staff and students, including required testing for symptomatic individuals (pool testing)
- Indicates that vaccines are not a prerequisite for returning to in-person learning even as they will provide an extra layer of protection for school staff.

DESE Commissioner's Guidance as of 2/23/21

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- Commissioner Riley announced he plans to ask for the authority to reverse pandemic education changes in March.
 - Commissioner Riley stated, “as health metrics continue to improve, we will need to take hybrid and remote learning models off the table and return to a traditional school format”
 - Planning to take a phased approach by bringing back elementary students first by April and then extend to middle and high schoolers returning by the end of the school year.
 - Parents will have the option to have their kids work remotely through the end of the year.



Overview of Potential Hybrid Plans

- Available option for the 75% of students who have been fully remote since Sept. 17, 2021.
- Identification of cohorts A & B at the building level consideration made for students with similar needs
- 2:3 hybrid model
- One week on/one week off



What is a 2:3 Hybrid Model?

The 2:3 hybrid model identifies two cohorts of students at each grade level (cohort A and cohort B).

- Students in cohort A will attend school **in-person** on Mondays and Tuesday and engage in remote learning on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- Students in cohort B will engage in remote learning on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and attend school **in person** on Thursdays and Fridays.

This 2:3 hybrid model ensures that school buildings never approach full capacity, and 6-feet of social distancing can be followed in classrooms and common spaces. Remote Wednesdays allows for deep cleaning between in person cohorts.

*****The District will continue to provide 5 days per week of full-time in-person learning for high need populations who are scheduled to return to in-person learning on March 1 (i.e. 25% cohort).***

75% fully Remote Family Survey Results

Please note, survey results are not representing individual students. The results are representative of the number of survey responses. The information should be used as a guide.

School	Remote	In-person
Adie Day School	5	7
Bailey Elementary School	161	177
Bartlett Community Partnership	105	149
BRIDGE Program	No responses	No responses
Butler Middle School	89	108
Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center	23	42
Daley Middle School	219	206
Greenhalge Elementary School	108	159
Laura Lee Therapeutic Day School	No responses	No responses
Leblanc Therapeutic Day School	1	2
Lincoln Elementary School	146	138
Lowell High School	651	577
McAuliffe Elementary School	183	266
McAvinnue Elementary School	92	159
Moody Elementary School	50	74
Morey Elementary School	118	112
Murkland Elementary School	112	124
Pawtucketville Memorial Elementary School	73	155
Pyne Arts Magnet School	75	221
Reilly Elementary School	69	227
Robinson Middle School	197	242
Rogers STEM Academy	159	232
Shaughnessy Elementary School	94	104
Stoklosa Middle School	191	188
Sullivan Middle School	113	159
The Career Academy	3	8
Wang Middle School	95	249
Washington Elementary School	69	65



Timeline for April 5th Return in Hybrid

- On or Before the Week of March 15th - Students within 75% of those who have been fully remote will move into cohorts.
- Week of March 22nd - Staff will be offered professional development designed to support staff in navigating a hybrid instruction.
- Week of March 29th - Staff will return to school buildings to set up classrooms to prepare for hybrid instruction.
- On April 5th - The hybrid cohort schedule will begin for students in grades PreK-12.



Technology Capacity at Schools

The IT department has been reviewing all the network server points in schools and making upgrades to ensure the wifi is ready to support the in-person instructional models and ensure all teachers will be able to successfully use the hardware and software needed for the hybrid learning model.

- The wired data ports within schools are 1Ghz to the network switches.
- Each classroom has a wireless access point running 2.4 and 5Ghz connecting to the network switch at 1Mhz.
- The MDF and IDF switches at each school are connected by 10Ghz fiber.
- Each school is connected by 10Ghz fiber to the core switch at Comcast's Washer Street location.
- From the Core switch we have redundant 10Ghz fiber, one running via the Lincoln School and one running via the butler school, both entering The Markey Center from different entry points.
- The Markley Center is the Palo Alto Firewall passing internet traffic to redundant ISP's at 2Ghz each.





Schedule Considerations for Hybrid Model

- Similar schedule will be used at each grade level as much as possible given service delivery requirements.
- LPS has maintained a typical school day schedule while in the remote learning model.
- Hybrid schedules will contain time built in for mask breaks and hand sanitizing and/or washing.
- Outdoor spaces will be identified for classes to access throughout each day of in-person instruction to provide opportunities for stretch breaks.

Consistent scheduling is important for in-person and remote learning days to help students establish productive learning routines and allow a seamless transition from remote learning to a return to in-person hybrid learning





Items for Consideration



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- Latest CDC guidance
 - Latest message from Governor and DESE Commissioner
 - Hybrid Model Considerations
 - Social Distancing
 - Transportation
 - Professional Development
 - School Schedules for Hybrid Cohorts
 - Uniqueness of High School/ Secondary maybe Challenge



Hybrid Implementation Next Steps

- ✓ Order cameras for classrooms
- ✓ Survey Results for Families of 75%
- ✓ Review Implementation Plan
 - Development of Hybrid Rosters
 - Distribution of Classroom Cameras for Rooms of 75%
 - Develop Transportation Plans
 - Ensure PPE and Safety Protocols are in Place
 - Teacher Professional Development for Equipment and Instruction
 - Student Return April 5, 2021